

MINUTES of the May 14, 2012 Meeting of the Monroe County Solid Waste Management Committee

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Las, Dan Olson, James Rasmussen, Christopher King and Mike Luethe

OTHERS PRESENT: Gail Frie-Monroe County Solid Waste Manager, Sue Van Geertruy-Solid Waste Clerical Assistant, Erik Lietz-Ayres Associates, Mary Eiler-Radl-Strategic Account Manager, Alliant Energy, Richard Yarrington-Former Solid Waste Committee Member, Fred Wegner-Resident and Jerry Martell (9:15)-Modern Disposal.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 9:05 a.m. by Committee Chair Las at the Solid Waste Administration Building, 20448 Junco Road, Town of Ridgeville.

1. NEW COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION, PROCEDURES, MEETING DATE & TIME

Each new committee member, the Solid Waste Office Personnel and all guests introduced themselves and shared a little about ourselves.

The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday June 13th. We will wait and see how this works out for everyone but it could be changed in the future.

2. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Eiler-Radl of Alliant Energy addressed the committee about Alliants involvement with Solid Waste. She questioned if anyone knew a lot about bio-energy and converting it to electricity. Alliant buys that energy. She gave a brief history of how all this evolved and explained the ART Tariffs. She told us that many sources applied for these tariffs and we were the last one approved. Some projects took much longer than first thought and while some are working some are still in the planning stage. She let us know that there are still sources out there that would like to use these tariffs but understands that this is a new committee and we need some time to learn and decide to keep what we have or let it go. She stated that she is not here to encourage or discourage. She said that she would like to hear something back in the next four months. Gail said he appreciated the four months and hopes we can have a decision for her by then. Dan Olson asked why the project had not gone forward and Chris King said his understanding was the inconsistent gas readings. Gail explained that we have installed additional infrastructure and by the end of summer we should be where we need to be. He is not drawing gas very hard but sort of has it on idle. The gas we are burning now is equivalent to 642 gallons of gasoline per day. Dan Olson stated that if it was a no-brainer the decision would have been made. Gail explained that there are many new technologies and breakthroughs and Mary explained that these are funded through our electric bills. All the big utilities participate. There is lots of money invested in renewable research. Dan asked if we could collect the gas and use as compressed like Kwik Trip, would that be less expensive. Gail said it would be more expensive up front but the payback is better and sooner. The infrastructure is different and he said that he won't look at it without direction from the committee. Mary said she attended the Kwik Trip meeting and for fast fill the cost is about 1 million, slow fill is less expensive. When asked how much less she said a couple hundred thousand. For public use it would have to be fast fill. Dan said he feels gas is simpler than electric. We will put options for gas on the next agenda. The committee and Gail thanked Mary for her time. Mary left at 9:36 a.m.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion by Mike Luethe to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting, seconded by Carol Las. All ayes, motion carried.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Dan Olson nominated Mike Luethe to be the Vice Chair. Second by James Rasmussen. Call for any

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other nominations. Hearing none Chair Las closed the nominations and with no objections declared Mike Luethe Vice Chair.

5. CURRENT BILLS, INTER DEPARTMENT TRANSFERS & VOUCHERS

Current bills are summarized as follows:

2012 Site II Cell 3	\$ 270.00
2012 Ridge II Operations	\$ 36,141.61
2012 Recycling	\$ 1,565.10
2012 Ridge I Closure / LTC	\$ 1,170.81
2012 HHW Clean Sweep	\$ 3,150.60
2012 Sand Creek	\$
2012 Credit Card Charges	\$ 277.13
2012 Interdepartmental Transfers	\$ 425.43

There was discussion concerning explanation of some of the expenses and to give contract amounts involving our Gerke contract. There was also discussion about the future possibilities pertaining to the Landfill.

Motion by Mike Luethe to approve the expenses as presented totaling \$ 43,000.68, seconded by Dan Olson. All ayes, motion carried.

6. DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

a) Financial & Waste Volume Reports- Gail explained the reports and bills that are in each committee member's book. He also explained that early in the year our financials look bad because revenue goes back to the previous year but about this time we start catching up. Recycling also looks bad as we have not yet received our grant money. Clean sweep will catch up next month. Gail took us through each department's finances. Our fund balance shows 254k in the red but our actual cash balance is 255k in the black. The LTC (long term care) accounts are covered and we are not using any Site I LTC, so operations will cover remediation costs. We have one million in closure and by the end of year will have one million in LTC for Site II. The Facilities Reserve Fund stand at 467k and we are using the 42 account (bonding) for purchasing material for next years construction. Gail stated that this private business operation does not always fit with County budgeting procedures. Last year our tonnage was down but we kept our cash flow up, this year will be the same but we will cut costs. He explained that we are an Enterprise Fund and as such we generate the revenue needed to run this department. We use no county monies and no county tax dollars. Everything we do is paid by us from wages and benefits to road maintenance. We also pay the wages for the highway employee that helps out on our clean sweep Saturdays. Some of the rules for a Solid Waste Department are mandated by the state and some are from the county. There are special statutes pertaining only to Solid Waste. Tonnage is the only way we generate revenue at this point. Mike Luethe asked about the tonnage year to date compared to last year. We are 500 ton over last year. The study done by Foth suggested that we increase our tonnage by 3k which would include some out of county waste. We were working with the Fort but things are at a standstill there so out of county waste is our best option. Jackson County was also pursued. Gail handed out the Landfill Tonnage Report. (Included with Minutes)

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Monroe County Landfill Tonnage Report

2011

MSW 32,450.51

Other 2,802.31

Total 35,252.82

Cover Sand 841.41

Leachate 14,652.53

2010

MSW 33,086.17

Other 3,855.32

Total 38,952.76

Cover Sand 3,178.79

Leachate 17,896.55

2009

MSW 33,086.17

Other 2,023.88

Total 35,110.05

Cover Sand 8,109.23

Leachate 13,331.89

2008

MSW 34,813.31

Other 681.93

Total 35,494.24

Cover Sand 28,008.87

Leachate 16,467.23

We have also increased landfill compaction from 1,000#'s per cubic yard to 1,700#'s. This allows the placement of 70% more waste in a cubic yard of landfill air space than in 2008.

2011 represents a \$90,000. savings in cover sand purchased and air space saved of over \$650,000. over 2008 numbers.

Sand is mainly used now for roads. Very little is used for cover. Gail also explained about asbestos and special wastes. The leachate volumes are down which will be a substantial savings.

b) Discussion, Enterprise Fund & Joint Solid Waste Management Committee-Covered under 6a.

c) Discussion, Truck Scale Issues- The State inspector was back again and says the scale is 40 pounds off but LaCrosse Scale says it is perfect. Gail requested that the scale not be checked unless

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both the State and LaCrosse Scale is here. The problem is the filtering. The scale doesn't zero fast enough when a truck drives off. LaCrosse scale set it that way because of the wind. The wind can cause the scale to bounce between weights and it won't catch a total weight. The filter lets it catch a weight but it takes longer to zero out. The State wants it to zero immediately. A new load cell was installed to make adjustment easier but the filtering is the problem. Dan Olson asked why the State Inspector cared and Gail explained that the error was in the customers favor so he agrees why would they care. The scale is governed by the department of Weights and Measures and they say it can be 10 pounds out of compliance but not more. Jerry shared that he recently had a new scale installed and he has the same problem with the Inspector. LaCrosse Scale will be back again to try to remedy the situation.

- d) Discussion & Possible Action, Out of County Waste-Gail explained that this item is on the agenda each month. This month Clark Disposal Inc has some work in Monroe County they would like to bring here. This may also lead to more waste being diverted here, possibly from Juneau County. We try not to compete with other landfills. We all try to work together. Gail is asking for permission to approve Clark Disposal. The licensing fee is \$1,000.00 and they want to make sure they use it up. Dan Olson asked why we would want to do this, what would we get out of it. Gail explained that in the Foth study the recommendation was to increase our tonnage by 3000 tons. This is one way to gain some of that. We have to have a certain amount to cover costs. Gail's goal is to get 2000# compaction. Dan said if he were king everyone would be charged for their waste. Gail stated that while recycling is the preferred method we need 33k tons to maintain our financials. He said a private landfill is just a landfill. Our costs include Recycling, Site I, HHW (Household hazardous waste) and Sand Creek. These are all fixed costs that for some we have no control over. Raising the tip fee can be a double edged sword. The competition can underbid and our tonnage goes down and then we have the same problem. Gail agrees we need to minimize what goes in to the landfill. Dan said the big picture is don't pollute the environment and the way to do that is through the pocketbook. Chris asked if we need a motion to approve Clark. We do. Motion to approve Clark Disposal bringing waste to include some from Juneau County, seconded by James Rasmussen. Dan asked if we would make money on this and Gail said yes. Gail also stated that we are very careful who we give a license to. Call for the vote. All ayes, motion carried.

7. LANDFILL OPERATIONS

- a) General Activities / Leachate Report-The leachate lines are completed and it cost about 20k but the system has already saved us 50k.
- b) Discussion, Landfill Design- Erik spoke about this and handed out a schematic. He explained some of the background about the landfills. He also explained how they are lined. There are actually three landfills here Site I, the demo landfill and Site II. Site I opened in 1979 and closed in 2002. The demo was the same. Site II was built in 2002 and was designed to be full in 2017. Now that has been extended to 2021 or 2022 due to better compaction. Erik said the premise is total encapsulation. All of this is regulated by the DNR. There has to be a minimum 10ft separation from high ground water or bedrock. This landfill has pinnacles. Clay is used primarily to keep liquid in. He said .0000001 is how quickly liquid moves through clay. Plastic is laid on top of the clay. Erik stated that plastic is a 100% impervious. A hole the size of a pencil point can be detected. He also said plastic to the DNR is secondary because it can get holes. After the plastic there is a see saw pattern with pipes and then one foot of sand. The liquid goes through the sand and into the pipes. The water picks up the contaminates from the waste. The water collects in the pipes and is pumped up over the berm and

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into a tank. Then it is recirculated. Recirculation helps the waste decompose and aids in compacting it further. He shared that when the investigative trenches were dug the waste was so dry it was not decomposing at all. Once a design is at elevation it is graded to make a nice surface covered with two feet of clay and then a plastic similar to the liner is placed on top. Then it is covered with sand so the water can go through and hit the plastic and drain off. Then 18 inches of general soil is added followed by 6 inches of topsoil and then it is seeded. Our south side slope has final cap. We also have gas collection wells. These wells produce carbon dioxide and methane. We suck out the gas and it collects in pipes and we flare it off. We collect the gas because it is flammable. It used to go directly into the soil but explosions can occur. Methane also kills plants. It is 20 times more potent than green house gas. It has to be destroyed in some way. Erik continued and said around the landfill there is a network of monitoring wells. They are sampled and there are gas probes so no gas can escape. He explained the design of the landfill is in a fixed shape. More tons equals more revenue on the tail end. Chris asked if more compaction can cause less degrading of the waste. Erik answered yes but at 2500 pounds. The last study showed our compaction at 1700 pounds per cubic yard. Dan asked what it decomposed to. Erik said it becomes a heavy black sludge. He also stated that glass never decomposes and that wood will but it takes a long time. Paper and food waste composes the fastest and rock never decomposes. Once the landfill is capped no crops can be allowed for planting but it can be restored to green space. When asked if corn could be grown on it Erik said the corn is not the problem it is the equipment that would damage the cap. Mike asked if as the garbage decomposes would it eventually settle. Erik responded that consolidation occurs to 90% of the original volume. Dan asked if once it has settled can you add more waste. Erik said once the landfill is closed it is done. You can temporarily close a site and reopen to add more waste. Gail said we need good compaction to ease settling and added that Site I had ponding due to settling.

- c) Discussion, Annual Tonnage Report-Covered under 6a.
- d) Discussion, Landfill Expansion/Land Purchase/Timelines- Erik started by saying that siting a new or existing landfill takes 3-5 years. The DNR requires an environmentally sound plan of operation. The 3-5 years is if it is uncontested. It takes longer if it is contested and causes more DNR involvement. Gail shared that in Vernon County when he sited one it took 7 years. We may be filled by 2021 so something needs to be done in 2020. If we decide to remain you have to go back to give ourselves enough time and that looks to be about 2014. Gail said this is the only landfill he knows of that has no buffer. There is only one direction to expand. He handed out maps of the landfill showing existing sites and the only option for expansion. He explained that the reasoning for this is Fred Wegner's offer to sell. A committee of interested parties got together and decided to have the property appraised. The appraisal is in the Corporation Counsel hands. Gail feels this Solid Waste committee should be part of the other committee. If there were to be contamination and it left the property there would be many problems. Site I cap was repaired and monitoring wells put in so we know where the problem is. Gail wants to grade it, cover it with plastic and not allow any water in. The cap is ok and could handle a three day rain but if it were a two week rain it could be a problem. Chris asked what the contamination is and Erik answered a chlorinated solvent. At the time when Site I was being used it was not hazardous waste but is considered hazardous now. Sampling wasn't started until the 90's. Mike asked how much we would cover with the plastic and Gail said cells 1, 2 and 5. We need to show we are actively taking care of the problem and we are not using any LTC money. Mike made the statement that the state designed the landfill but now it is not good enough.
- e) Discussion, Landfill Long-Term Financial Plan- Gail passed out the financial plan: (see below)

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MONROE COUNTY LANDFILL LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN Landfill Cell Capacities

I = 170,000 , II = 170,000 , III = 235,000 , IV = 200,000 , IV A = 210,000 .

* This Plan assumes the ability of setting \$175,000. per yr aside for future expenses. * Current compaction rates will improve the financial performance by extending the active life of Ridgeville II.

Expenses Outside of normal budget:

2012 = Phase 3A leachate recirculation \$34,000.

January 2013 Bid out Phase IV Construction, Landfill Operations and Leachate Hauling Contracts. Monroe County could save money with an in-house operation.

2013 = Phase 4 Construction \$600,000.

ALL COSTS WILL BE COVERED WITH REMAINING BOND PROCEEDS with little available cash needed.

2014 – 2017 During this timeframe Monroe Co. must start recovering the renewable energy value from our abundant waste materials. This new revenue stream is not considered.

Clay Studies	\$ 30,000.
Purchase additional land	\$150,000.
Phase III final cap	\$450,000.
4A leachate recirculation	\$ 20,000.
Ridgeville III ISI & ISR	\$ 15,000.
Ridgeville III Feasibility Report & Plan of Operation	\$300,000

We must find a creative way to finance the purchase of additional land over the \$150,000. All other costs can be paid out of the four year operating revenue.

In 2017 the Solid Waste Bond will be paid off which will gain us \$300,000. a year in additional revenue and our Long Term Care liability will be paid up saving us another \$95,000. a year. We should be able to cover \$550,000. to \$600,000. per year of future costs.

2018 Leachate recirculation Phase 3B & 4B \$55,000.

2020 Construction Phase I Ridgeville III \$2,000,000.

2021 Ridgeville II final cap \$1,500,000.

(final cap expense of \$1,500,000. will be recovered from Closure Escrow)

Using the current financial model of the Ridgeville II Landfill operation all future costs can be covered with operational cash and no borrowing or Monroe County Tax dollars will be needed. This financial plan provides the infrastructure to extend the landfill operation from closing in late 2020 to operating to 2030 or well beyond. The current Monroe County site will not accommodate any landfill expansion without the purchase of a neighboring property. No financial analysis was done on siting a new landfill on a Greenfield site in a total new location.

Facilities Reserve Running Balance

2011=	\$465,000
2012= +	\$141,000
	<u>\$606,000</u>
2013= +	\$125,000
	<u>\$731,000</u>

2014-2017	
	+ \$700,000
	- \$965,000
2017=	<u>\$466,000</u>

2018= +	\$495,000
2019= +	\$550,000
2020= -	\$1,450,000
2020=	<u>\$61,000</u>

Starting a new landfill with no debt allows for Tip Fee reductions and/or placing funds in escrow for future investments in waste disposal alternatives

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7e continued- Gail went through the plan. Mike said in 2008 we bonded for 2.5 million and Gail has figured out how not to bond for one cent. Gail said if we can extend the life of the landfill one more year it would be no problem. Erik said that Ayres helped with construction and design costs and no potential revenue from a renewable project was used. Any revenue would be a bonus. Gail explained how a 150k land purchase with forestry making up the difference, which we would refund, could be beneficial for the landfill. We are not asking forestry to buy the land and put it on the taxpayer. We want to stretch out our payments. Having the land would be good protection from any liability.

8. RECYCLING PROGRAM

- a) Transfer Facility Operation- Everything is running smoothly.

- b) Discussion, 4/28/2012 Special Waste Collection Report- We had 400 customers that day between 8-2. While not a record it was a very good turnout. We had 12% more waste than last spring. It averages out to one car every 54 seconds. Carol asked Gail to explain this program and how it works. Gail stated that we work with LaCrosse County and have a collection twice a year, the last Saturday in April and the first Saturday in October. He shared the collection totals. From a financial end we always try to break even. If we would make some money we could possibly lower fees. We also did not have one complaint about fees.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Department Updates- Gail really didn't have anything for this item.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Committee will be Monday, June 13, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. at the Solid Waste Administration Building, 20448 Junco Road, Town of Ridgeville, Monroe County Wisconsin.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion by Dan Olson seconded by Mike Luethe to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.